

# RACE TO THE TOP



5/14/2010

Technical Assistance Planning Workshop for  
Phase 2 – Minneapolis, MN

## Overview

The US Department of Education hosted a technical assistance planning workshop for potential Phase 2 applicants to review technical and logistical aspects of the Race to the Top grant competition. The workshop was held in Minneapolis, MN on April 21, 2010 at the Millennium Hotel Minneapolis. The purpose of the technical assistance workshop was to provide opportunities for potential Race to the Top state applicants to hear from and ask questions of Phase 1 Race to the Top winners and Department of Education staff involved in the Race to the Top grant competition. At the workshop, representatives from Delaware and Tennessee discussed their plans and laws, talked about their approaches to building statewide collaboration, and answered questions. Department staff reviewed the Race to the Top selection criteria, requirements, and priorities, and answered technical questions about the Race to the Top program.

## Workshop Agenda

8:30-8:45	Welcome and Overview
8:45-10:00	Understanding the Priorities and Selection Criteria: Overview and Q&A with the Department
10:00-11:20	Presentation of Successful Applications
11:20-11:30	Break
11:30-12:45	Panel Discussion and Q&A: Building and Implementing a Statewide Strategy
12:45-1:45	Lunch on Own
1:45-3:00	Panel Discussion and Q&A: Developing Reform Plans
3:00-3:15	Break
3:15-4:00	Developing Detailed Budgets
4:00-4:45	Application Review and Submission
4:45-5:00	Final Q&A and Closing

## OVERALL STATISTICS

Grand Total States attending TA Workshop or participating on Conference Call	41 States, plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico
Total Number of States Represented On-site	31
Total Number of States Represented on Webinar Only	10
Total Number of State Reps at the TA Workshop	116
Total Number of Public Attendees (On-site & webinar)	21

### List of States Participating in Minneapolis Phase 2 Workshop (On-site or Via Webinar)

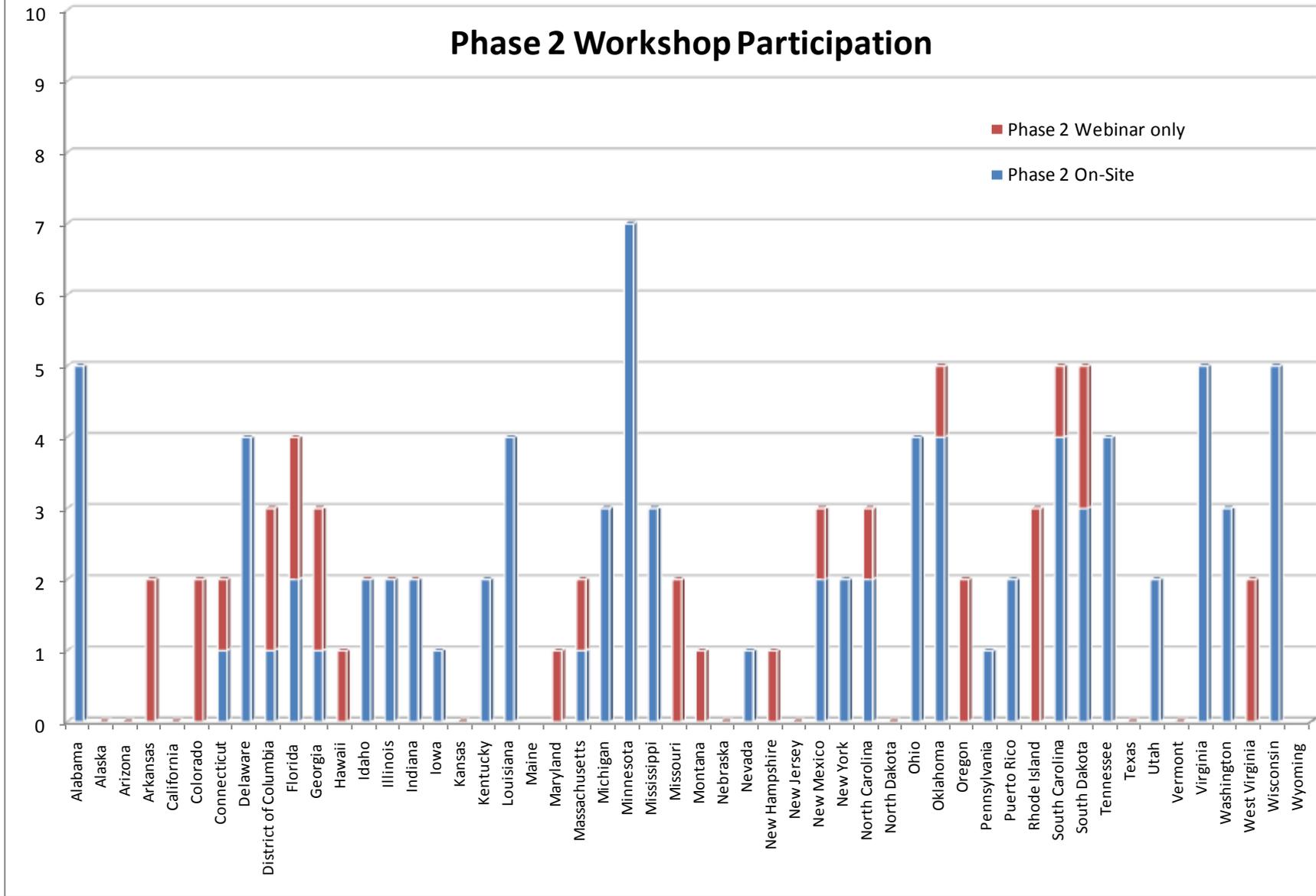
State	Number of State Representatives On-Site	Number of State Representatives via Webinar	Total Number of State Representatives
Alabama	5		5
Alaska			
Arizona			
Arkansas		2	2
California			
Colorado		2	2
Connecticut	1	1	2
Delaware	4		4
District of Columbia	1	2	3
Florida	2	2	4

Georgia	1	2	3
Hawaii		1	1
Idaho	2		2
Illinois	2		2
Indiana	2		2
Iowa	1		1
Kansas			
Kentucky	2		2
Louisiana	4		4
Maine			
Maryland		1	1
Massachusetts	1	1	2
Michigan	3		3
Minnesota	7		7
Mississippi	3		3
Missouri		2	2
Montana		1	1
Nebraska			
Nevada	1		1
New Hampshire		1	1
New Jersey			
New Mexico	2	1	3
New York	2		2
North Carolina	2	1	3
North Dakota			
Ohio	4		4
Oklahoma	4	1	5
Oregon		2	2
Pennsylvania	1		1
Puerto Rico	2		2
Rhode Island		3	3
South Carolina	4	1	5
South Dakota	3	2	5
Tennessee	4		4
Texas			
Utah	2		2
Vermont			
Virginia	5		5
Washington	3		3

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West Virginia		2	2
Wisconsin	5		5
Wyoming			
Total	81	35	116

## Phase 2 Workshop Participation



## States Intending to Apply for Phase 2

State	Intent to Apply Phase 2
Alabama	√
Alaska	
Arizona	√
Arkansas	√
California	√
Colorado	√
Connecticut	√
Delaware	Winner Phase 1
District of Columbia	√
Florida	√
Georgia	√
Hawaii	√
Idaho	√
Illinois	√
Indiana	
Iowa	√
Kansas	
Kentucky	√
Louisiana	√
Maine	√
Maryland	√
Massachusetts	√
Michigan	√
Minnesota	√
Mississippi	√
Missouri	√
Montana	√
Nebraska	√
Nevada	√
New Hampshire	√
New Jersey	√
New Mexico	√
New York	√
North Carolina	√
North Dakota	
Ohio	√
Oklahoma	√

Oregon	
Pennsylvania	√
Puerto Rico	
Rhode Island	√
South Carolina	√
South Dakota	
Tennessee	Winner Phase 1
Texas	
Utah	√
Vermont	
Virginia	
Washington	√
West Virginia	√
Wisconsin	√
Wyoming	
Total Number Intending to Apply for Phase 2	39

## RACE TO THE TOP SURVEY RESULTS

A link to an electronic survey was sent to all registrants of the Minneapolis Race to the Top Technical Assistance Planning workshops. All responses were anonymous. See Appendix A for the full survey.

### General Findings

Overall, the majority of respondents were satisfied with all aspects of the technical assistance workshop for Phase 2 applicants. In general, they reported that the topics covered were relevant and useful and that the event was a valuable use of their time. The vast majority of respondents were satisfied with the logistics and materials for the meeting and the only area of notable dissatisfaction was with the room and hotel facilities; although the vast majority were satisfied with these aspects of the meeting as well.

### Respondents

29 participants of the Phase 2 technical assistance workshop responded to the survey. 24 of the respondents were state representatives and 5 were general attendees. 72% of respondents were on-site, 28% were on the webinar.

### Survey Responses

83% of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the workshop overall. Ten percent of the respondents were unsatisfied overall, and two respondents were reportedly very unsatisfied; however it should be noted that these two respondents also reported satisfaction with the individual topics and information and reported that the event overall was a valuable use of their time. It is possible that these two respondents selected the first radio button on the survey, which indicated very unsatisfied, but may not have read the item label correctly.

When participants were asked if they felt the event was a valuable use of their time, 85% agreed or strongly agreed, two respondents disagreed and two respondents were neutral.

**Topics and Information:** Workshop attendees were asked to report whether they felt the topics covered at the workshop were relevant and useful. The vast majority of respondents (nearly 90%) reported that the lessons from Phase 1 and the presentations by Delaware and Tennessee were relevant and useful. Seventy-six percent felt the morning session on Building and Implementing a Statewide Strategy was relevant and useful, while 69% felt the afternoon session on Developing Reform Plans was relevant and useful. Only 2 respondents felt that these two sessions were not relevant and useful and the remaining respondents were neutral. The Developing Detailed Budgets session was reportedly relevant and useful to 65% of respondents; while only one respondent disagreed and the remaining 8 respondents (31%) were neutral. 77% reported that that application review session and the comments from peer reviewers were relevant and useful; 15% were neutral and 8% disagreed.

The majority of respondents (62%) agreed or strongly agreed that the workshop left them with a good sense of how to proceed with their application. Only 2 respondents did not agree and the remaining 9 respondents (31%) were neutral.

**Satisfaction with Logistics and Materials:** All but one of the respondents (96%) was satisfied or very satisfied with the information provided before the event and with the materials they received on site. All respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the registration process. The highest degree of dissatisfaction was with the room and hotel facilities (18%), although the vast majority (82%) was satisfied or very satisfied.

## Survey Comments

### Comments to expand responses

The workshop was good for us in that it clarified how much work our state would need to do in order to present a strong application.

The workshop was very good. Thank you for providing it. The only complaint I have is the following: \*1) The budgetary restraints that are now required based on state size were originally "suggestions" in the NIA. Now, the department has made them requirements. The ED staff did not answer well regarding how or why this could not be changed back. Regardless of size of state, there are some budget considerations that cost more or less the same whether in a state of 1 million or 100 million, such as developing a data system. We did not get a good answer for how to adjust our initial application that was over the new maximum amount by 60% to spend less, have greater reform, and therefore earn more points in round two. We were left with having to cut parts of our initiative because they don't fit the budget constraints for a small state.

Our team needed to leave before the meeting was finished. Therefore, we missed the last 90 minutes. The USED speakers were articulate, focused, and generally helpful. They asked many useful questions in the TN and DE team sessions and brought several good points to the surface. Overall, I believe I gained professionally from participating at the workshop. Thanks.

It is entirely unnecessary for states to spend the money to attend these workshops. I attended one during round 1 in person. I attended this one by webinar. I got the same amount out of each one.

Very helpful and appreciated! As a state that did NOT apply in phase I, this was invaluable.

The reviewers comments were most helpful; at least where they were consistent. Joanne Weiss was very skilled and lovely at conducting the meeting in a warm and welcoming way. I appreciated the "reviewer" conversation right up front, even though I didn't agree with the defensive nature of the metrics. I was sitting near researchers and statisticians who scoffed at the explanation. Dropping of high and low scores still makes the most sense. Nonetheless, the meeting was well organized but not worth two days away from the workplace. A brief paper could have given us the same information or a shorter webinar after reading the brief with opportunities to have questions addressed would have saved the Dept. of Ed. money and the time of the attendees.

Our team had to leave before the sessions on budget and peer review.

Independent meetings with states were very informative.

## Additional Comments

My thoughts on this are minor; overall, things were just fine. However, the hotel room was quite dated: the tub had a foot of standing water, the iron didn't work, etc. It wasn't a very good hotel for the price that we paid. Also, the onsite restaurant was kind of mediocre, so it was nice to have other dining options nearby. The other thing I would note is that the meeting would have been better to have coffee (and snacks if possible). Both Race to the Top workshops for phases 1 and 2 haven't had anything except water available during the meeting. I know there are budget constraints, but other meetings that ED has held have been able to pull off at least minimum snacks & coffee. That would help participants stay more engaged.

I really liked being able to attend via webex and would have appreciated having access to the actual ppt prior to or during the session.

I think the length of the program can be reduced without sacrificing quality.

Beth Karon (spelling?) was a great, extremely responsive person to deal with prior, during and after the workshop.

Please choose a hotel where the sleeping rooms are clean. The bedspreads and bathrooms were unacceptable. I think you should choose a city for the meetings that typically one can travel to without having to change planes -like Atlanta, Dallas, Chicago, Philadelphia, etc. Also, please do not choose a hotel that requires over \$80 in cab fares. There are many fine hotels located at airports. If participants had time to enjoy the city, it would be different. But to pay high cab fare to travel into a city that you don't get to see is a waste of resources. However, the food in the hotel was outstanding and the meeting room was fine. The guest rooms, however, were deplorable.

Hotel was not a very good one.

Lead time to register and commit was very short. Rooms were old and unkempt. No coffee service or any kind of refreshment (unusual for national meetings; even DOE). The attempt to help was very worthy and the DOE staff was kind and helpful.

I would have preferred to meet at a place where there is a larger airport hub and where we would not have incurred transportation costs to get travel to and from the airport.



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## Race to the Top Phase 2 Technical Assistance Planning Workshop for States

**Note: Percentages may not always total 100 percent due to rounding.**

### 1. Did you attend the Phase 2 workshop in person or via webinar?

Phase 2 TA On-site Workshop	(23) 74.19%
Phase 2 TA Webinar	(8) 25.81%

### 2. Did you attend as a?

State Representative	(26) 83.87%
General Attendee	(5) 16.13%

### 3. How satisfied were you, overall, with the Phase 2 TA Workshop?

Very Unsatisfied	(3) 9.68%
Unsatisfied	(3) 9.68%
Satisfied	(18) 58.06%
Very Satisfied	(7) 22.58%

### 4. Please answer the following:

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Overall this event was a valuable use of my time.	(0) 0.00%	(2) 6.90%	(2) 6.90%	(18) 62.07%	(7) 24.14%

5. The following topics were relevant and useful:

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Lessons from Phase 1	(0) 0.00%	(1) 3.23%	(2) 6.45%	(20) 64.52%	(8) 25.81%
Presentations from Delaware and Tennessee	(0) 0.00%	(2) 6.45%	(1) 3.23%	(19) 61.29%	(9) 29.03%
Panel Discussion and Q&A with Delaware and Tennessee on Building and Implementing a Statewide Strategy (morning session)	(0) 0.00%	(2) 6.45%	(5) 16.13%	(16) 51.61%	(8) 25.81%
Panel Discussion and Q&A with Delaware and Tennessee on Developing Reform Plans (afternoon session)	(0) 0.00%	(2) 6.45%	(7) 22.58%	(16) 51.61%	(6) 19.35%
Developing Detailed Budgets	(0) 0.00%	(1) 3.57%	(8) 28.57%	(14) 50.00%	(5) 17.86%
Application Review/Comments from Peer Reviewers	(0) 0.00%	(2) 6.90%	(4) 13.79%	(18) 62.07%	(5) 17.24%

6. Please answer the following:

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Overall I left the workshop with a good sense of how to proceed in developing my application	(1) 3.23%	(1) 3.23%	(9) 29.03%	(16) 51.61%	(4) 12.90%

7. Please offer any comments that might clarify or expand on your answers to the above questions. (Constructive criticism and compliments are both welcome!)

See page 8 for full comments

8. How satisfied were you with the logistics and support?

	Very Unsatisfied	Unsatisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
Information provided to you prior to coming to the event	(0) 0.00%	(1) 3.45%	(23) 79.31%	(5) 17.24%
Registration process	(0) 0.00%	(0) 0.00%	(20) 68.97%	(9) 31.03%
Materials provided	(0) 0.00%	(1) 3.45%	(21) 72.41%	(7) 24.14%
The room and hotel facilities	(2) 8.33%	(2) 8.33%	(18) 75.00%	(2) 8.33%

9. Please share with us any additional ways in which this event could have been improved.

See page 9 for full comments



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## Race to the Top Phase 2 Technical Assistance Planning Workshop for States

### Feedback Requested

Thank you so much for attending the U.S. Department of Education's Race to the Top Phase 2 Technical Assistance Planning Workshop on Wednesday April 21, 2010 in Minneapolis, MN. We want to ensure that the Department's events serve our attendees well. If you have about 10 minutes to answer the questions below, we would greatly appreciate it. A separate survey will be sent to those who attended the Assessment Workshop on Thursday April 22, 2010.

### 1. Did you attend the Phase 2 workshop in person or via webinar?

- Phase 2 TA On-site Workshop
- Phase 2 TA Webinar

### 2. Did you attend as a?

- State Representative
- General Attendee

### 3. How satisfied were you, overall, with the Phase 2 TA Workshop?

- Very Unsatisfied
- Unsatisfied
- Satisfied
- Very Satisfied

### 4. Please answer the following:

	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>
<b>Overall this event was a valuable use of my time.</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

### 5. The following topics were relevant and useful:

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Lessons from Phase 1	<input type="radio"/>				
Presentations from Delaware and Tennessee	<input type="radio"/>				
Panel Discussion and Q&A with Delaware and Tennessee on Building and Implementing a Statewide Strategy (morning session)	<input type="radio"/>				
Panel Discussion and Q&A with Delaware and Tennessee on Developing Reform Plans (afternoon session)	<input type="radio"/>				
Developing Detailed Budgets	<input type="radio"/>				
Application Review/Comments from Peer Reviewers	<input type="radio"/>				

**6. Please answer the following:**

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Overall I left the workshop with a good sense of how to proceed in developing my application	<input type="radio"/>				

**7. Please offer any comments that might clarify or expand on your answers to the above questions. (Constructive criticism and compliments are both welcome!)**

**8. How satisfied were you with the logistics and support?**

	<b>Very Unsatisfied</b>	<b>Unsatisfied</b>	<b>Satisfied</b>	<b>Very Satisfied</b>
Information provided to you prior to coming to the event	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Registration process	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Materials provided	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The room and hotel facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**9. Please share with us any additional ways in which this event could have been improved.**

Thank you for taking the time to help us improve these events in the future.